

GP DENVER TRAVEL GUIDE

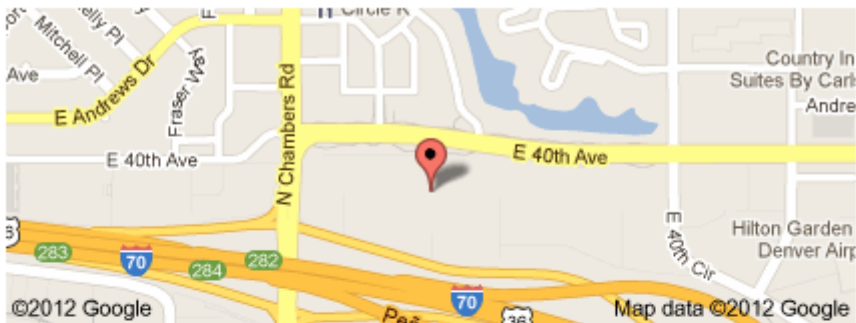







Downtown Denver with a view of the Colorado State Capitol building. (Uncle Scott's office is in that big building at right, on the far side.)

The Venue

Crowne Plaza Denver International Airport Hotel & Convention Center (15500 East 40th Avenue, Denver, CO 80239)

CROWNE PLAZA[Directions](#)





[9 Google reviews](#)

Prices: \$104 ▼ per night

At a glance: high speed internet access · terrace restaurant · pool and whirlpool · dick's sporting goods park · atrium bar

Address: 15500 East 40th Avenue, Denver, CO 80239

Phone: (303) 371-9494

Transit: [40th Ave & Andrews Dr](#)

Hotel class: 3 stars

Getting There

Airport

The hotel has a free shuttle from the Airport. If you call the hotel at 303-371-9494 when you land they can tell you when the next shuttle is coming. Once you get to the main terminal you will want to go to Level 5, this is where ground transportation is.

Note that DIA charges taxis a pretty stiff fee, so the cab fare to the venue is over \$30...

RTD is the local area bus service. RTD provides an easy transport option from the Airport to the Venue, and from the Venue to downtown Denver. See the Getting Around Section below for details.

Get directions My places

A Denver International Airport
8500 Peña Boulevard
Denver, CO 80249

Walk to DIA East Door 605
About 1 min (256 ft)

DIA East Door 605

AT Bus towards AT Arapahoe Stn
7:20am - 7:32am (13 mins, 1 stop)

Salida St & E 40th Av

Walk to E 40th Av & Salida St
About 1 min (6 mins to make transfer)

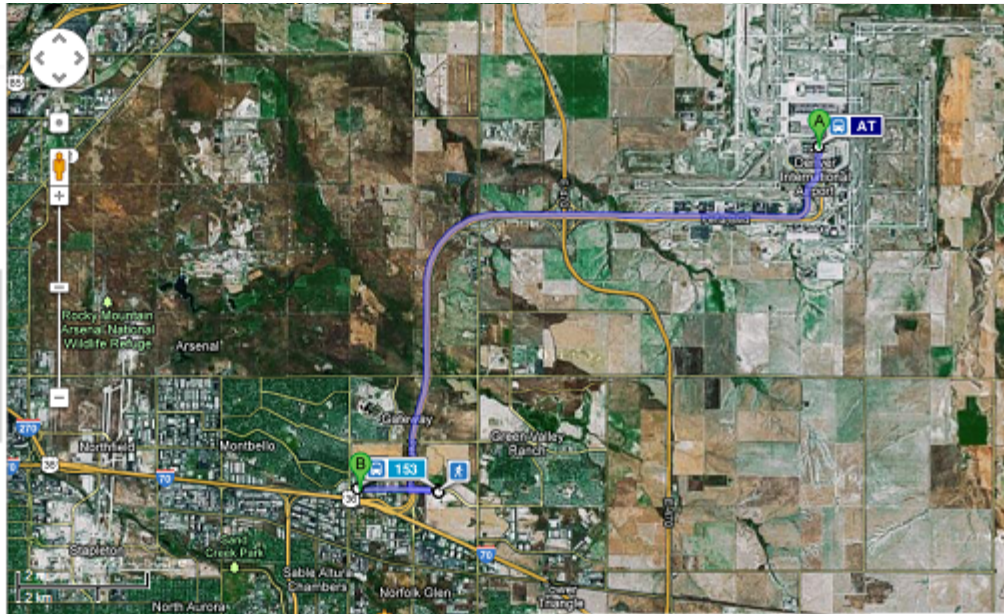
E 40th Av & Salida St

153 Bus towards 153 Montbello PnR
7:38am - 7:42am (4 mins, 5 stops)

40th Ave & Andrews Dr

Walk to 15500 East 40th Avenue, Denver, CO 80239
About 3 mins (0.1 mi)

B 15500 East 40th Avenue, Denver, CO 80239



Major Highways

The venue is pretty convenient, right on I-70 and fairly close to the airport.

Coming **from the north** on I-25, take I-270 east, or - if you miss that exit - I-70 east. I-270 merges onto I-70 a few miles west of the venue.

From the south on I-25, take I-225 north to I-70 east - that intersection is just a mile or two west of the venue.

And, **from the east or west**, you'll be on I-70 already; just watch for the Chambers Road exit - it's less than a mile west of the airport exit.

From the northeast (i.e., Nebraska), you may head towards Denver on I-76; the free highway route is not the shortest route (I-76 to I-270 to I-70 east). I recommend a GPS unit, and the toll road (E-470 to Pena Blvd south, then follow the 'from the airport' directions).

From the airport, if you got a car: Pena Blvd to 40th Avenue - it's the last exit before you get to I-70. Go west (turn right) on 40th, and the venue is on your left (south) just before you get to Chambers Road. If you miss 40th, you're going on an adventure... one of those "can't get there from here" things. Don't miss the exit for 40th.

Things to do:

Getting Around

Local Shuttle

The Hotel has a local shuttle that, when available, will shuttle you to and from the airport as well as local restaurants. The shuttle will also take you to the nearby RTD station, where you can catch the bus to downtown.

RTD

RTD is the Denver metro area mass transit - mostly buses, us westerners are kind of slow to figure out this train thing. Having said that, the service isn't bad, and somewhat reasonable; a local fare is \$2.25, and you get free transfers onto connecting routes. You can also buy a day pass (\$6.75 for local), or a ticket book with 10 local fares for \$20. If you're looking to spend a day doing other stuff in the area, RTD is a viable option.

<http://www.rtd-denver.com/>

Taxi

Taxis aren't outrageous - once you're off airport property, that is. The fare from the venue to downtown is a bit less than to the airport - about \$30. You can get an estimate of cab fares here:

<http://www.taxifarefinder.com/main.php?city=Denver>

Rental Cars

Driving around Denver isn't terrible, but involves the same sort of rush hour nonsense as any big city. The roads are mediocre, and winter is when we grow potholes. However, there's very few toll roads - only two, and you probably don't need either one - and parking isn't outrageous. You can park all day in downtown for \$10 or less - if you look around a bit. Parking at the venue is free, but uncovered. Make sure your rental car comes with a snow brush. (Not that it ever snows here...)

Walking

Yep, you can walk around in Denver. That fresh air and sunshine will feel great. Until the lack of oxygen in that air, and the dehydration from lack of moisture, catch up with you. (See "Things you should know", below.)

Food/Drink

Best Restaurant in Denver: Rioja, in Larimer Square (downtown); Larimer Square has a few other restaurants that could lay claim to that "best of" title, if not for Rioja. Osteria Marco, Bistro Vendome, Euclid Hall, TAG, Russell's Smokehouse - all great, but all just a notch below Rioja. If you're looking for great at a lower cost, Euclid Hall is the choice - they make their own sausages, mustards, and pickles. And Duck Confit Poutine!

Best Restaurant close to the venue: probably Emil-Lene's Sirloin House; it's less than 2 miles, so walking distance for some - but the hotel shuttle will take you to "Emillene's" (as the locals pronounce it), and cab fare should be less than \$10.

Right across from the venue are a variety of fast-food options, including KFC, A&W, Pizza Hut and Qdoba (like a Chipotle, only better). Also within a few blocks are Ted's Montana Grill, Uno, Anthony's Pizza (I bet they deliver to the venue!), Outback, Sonic, Popeye's and Taco Bell. About a mile north on Chambers are more choices.

Worst Restaurant in Denver that you just have to try once: Casa Bonita. Don't go for the food, go for the atmosphere, the experience ... OK, and the sopapillas. I usually tell friends to eat somewhere else first, then go there for sopapillas. Oh, and - if you're getting around on the bus, you get to ride the Colfax bus to & from Casa Bonita - and the Colfax bus is often an adventure in itself!

Sushi: c'mon, you don't fly to Denver for "fresh" fish ... sure, we have good seafood here, and even good sushi - but it's no better than what you can get next to an actual ocean. You come to Denver for steak! However, if you insist on sushi, there is excellent sushi to be found at Sushi Train on Hampden and I-25, they have reasonably priced lunch and dinner specials every day.

Steak (and such): Emil-Lene's is a fine choice; downtown includes a Morton's, Ruth's Chris, Elway's; there's also Willie G's and Capital Grille, which are better than the aforementioned chains. But if you don't want to brave downtown, Emil-Lene's should satisfy. There is a Texas De Brazil a few miles from the venue and Fogo De Chao and Rodizio Grill (the budget version of Fogo), both downtown, if you want to partake in the meat! Meat! more MEAT! kind of steak place.

Best Peruvian style rotisserie chicken: Los Cabos II, 15th & Champa, downtown. They've got other Peruvian entrees - but that chicken is really, really good.

Sightseeing

Downtown

The main things to see in Denver proper are all downtown. You can either get the bus or take a taxi. Once you are there, you can walk around or there is a few shuttle on 16th street.



United States Mint- Denver

Come see one of the two places in the country where coins are made. You can take a tour and see for yourself. Tours must be reserved ahead of time, but are an interesting look into the production of the US currency. http://www.usmint.gov/mint_tours/?action=startreservation (Free) (Monday-Thursday)



Denver Art Museum

Denver's art museum has a wide variety of different types of art. Everything from Pre-Columbian art to Western American art to traditional European Masters. During the time of the Grand Prix have a special exhibit called Becoming Van Gogh - you will need advance tickets.

<http://denverartmuseum.org/visitor-info/hours-location-parking> (\$13, more for Van Gogh) (Tuesday-Sunday)



Colorado History Museum

If you have an interest in the history of Colorado from the ruins at Mesa Verde to Modern times this is an interesting museum. They just completed their new building and the

museum is now much more up to date. They have many interes

Colorado Capitol Building (see a great picture at the start of the guide)

You can take a guided tour of the Colorado Capitol building. The tour focuses on the history of Colorado Government and the building its self. It also talks about the important pieces of art that are in the building. <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CGA-LegislativeCouncil/CLC/1200536135302> (Free) (Monday-Friday)

Molly Brown House

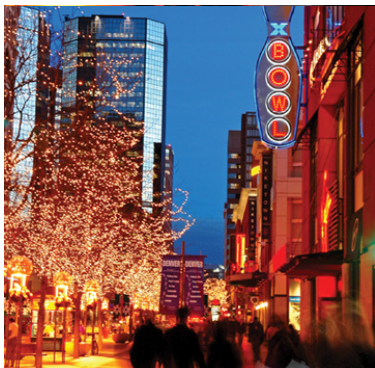
See the house where this famous Titanic survivor once lived. Already known in Denver before the disaster, she became famous for her actions as the ship sank. This house is an interesting look at how wealthy people lived in the early 1900s. <http://www.mollybrown.org/visit-us/> (\$8) (Tuesday-Sunday)



Colorado Convention Center



This is your typical convention center, except for the fact that there is a 40 foot tall blue bear looking in the windows. Its a fun thing to see and get your picture taken with if you happen to be downtown. We'd probably have a Grand Prix at the Convention Center, except the Colorado Gaming Commission has some funny ideas about card games and prizes...



16th Street Mall

Stretching just over one mile, this pedestrian mall runs from the Capitol Hill area to LoDo (Lower Downtown), and includes many restaurants and shops. There's a free shuttle that covers the length of the mall - beware, people underneath the mall shuttle wheels do not fare well - and it runs from 5am until about 1am. A

Tattered Cover Bookstore

Denver is blessed with some great bookstores, including three locations for the beloved Tattered Cover - one of the best independent bookstores anywhere. One location is towards the west end of the 16th Street Mall, at Wynkoop. <http://www.tatteredcover.org>

If you want to find more things to do here is the tourism website for Denver <http://www.denver.org/>

Things you should know:

Weather

There is a misconception as to what the weather is like. It does snow.



Once or twice a season, we might get a lot of snow. However the bright sun and arid climate means snow doesn't stick around very long. Blizzards are a possibility. So is thermonuclear war. Granted, blizzards have a higher probability (we hope) - but it's much more likely to be moderate and sunny.

Speaking of warm and arid, temperatures in the 50s or even 40s aren't all that cold, when the sun is shining (which it does, most days) - but you will want a warm coat for night time. The warmth of the afternoon sun has fooled many newcomers, mistakes have been made... remember the lessons of the past and bring layers.



Finally, drink plenty of water. It is an arid climate. You lose plenty of moisture without even realizing it, before you realize it you're dehydrated. If you don't have a water bottle on you, get one. Drink it. Get another one. If you think you're not thirsty, take another drink. This is very important, especially if you are from lower altitude. There is less oxygen here than you are used to, combined with the fact that you can get dehydrated quickly, it can lead to a bad weekend. Just remember drink more than you think you need, and be sure to take care of yourself. (Speaking of drinking ... alcohol tends to have a stronger effect at altitude.)

Things *NOT* To Do In Denver:

Hotel, Schmotel

Several years ago, at another Grand Prix, some judges stayed at the Crossland Economy Suites, just 5-10 minutes walk south of the venue on Chambers Road. The stories they told

of that hotel are firmly lodged in our collective consciousness, and we heartily recommend you choose your hotel carefully.

Smoking

Some of you have heard about the new legislation in Colorado, decriminalizing marijuana; be aware that the law is not yet in effect, and probably won't be by that first weekend in January. Also, note that smoking is prohibited in most public places - no matter what you're smoking. A note for you smokers, you need to be at least 25 feet from a door to smoke, so please do not stand right outside the venue door.